Resources for Working Virtually

The Family Liaison Office's Global Employment Initiative (GEI) has created this collection of sites connecting employers with professionals seeking to work virtually. Many of the positions are freelance. Positions like these can be a good way to get a foot in the door and make contacts that may lead to more long-term positions.

Don't limit your job search to the companies noted here. You can use your favorite job search engine and/or indeed.com to conduct a search of jobs in your field with the following key words: remote, work at home, work-at-home, work from home, telecommute, telecommuting, virtual, freelancer, and consultant. You'll be surprised at the variety of jobs that turn up. More key search terms are available on Rat Race Rebellion's page.

General

- Ratracerebellion.com and worldwideworkathome.com provide a listing of the sectors most likely to allow telecommuting as well as ideas for companies in each sector.
- Workathomemoms.about.com, workingmother.com and wahm.com online magazines for those working at home. WAHM includes a search engine for work-at-home jobs.
- Momcorps.com and flexhourjobs.com list flexible jobs, including some that are virtual.

General Freelance

• Elance-odesk.com, guru.com, freelancer.com, and peopleperhour.com - sites that connect employers from all sectors with professionals looking for teleworking projects. Freelance professionals create online profiles and portfolios, submit proposals for jobs that interest them, and receive payment through these sites. As they are global sites, job seekers may find that payment tends to be lower than for U.S.-based firms.

Business Consulting

• Edenmccallum.com - a network-based consulting firm that hires freelancers for projects and aims to compete with larger strategic consulting firms.

Writers

• Textbroker.com, problogger.net, mediabistro.com, journajobs.eu, and journalismjobs.com - a few sites looking for freelance writers.

Information Technology

Many tech companies have distributed workforce models and their websites may reveal opportunities for remote workers. A distributed workforce is a workforce that reaches beyond the restrictions of a traditional office environment. A distributed workforce is disbursed geographically over a wide area – domestically or internationally. By installing key technologies, distributed companies enable employees located anywhere to access all of the company's resources and software such as applications, data and email without working within the confines of a physical company-operated facility. Also look at "remote" or "telecommute"

jobs on dice.com or devbistro.com. See the article from ScottBerkun.com and the attached list of mostly IT companies with distributed workforce models.

Tutors

 Tutor.com, instaedu.com, and tutorvista.com - a few of the sites that hire online tutors in all subjects and all levels including foreign language, computer programing, and working with software packages.

Translators

• 1-800-translate.com, languagesunlimited.com, lionbridge.com, gengo.com - offer translation work in many languages.

Artists

- Behance.net, 99designs.com, and designcrowd.com online marketplaces where artists and creative types (e.g., photographers, graphic designers, and illustrators) can showcase their work and search for freelance opportunities.
- Voices.com an online marketplace for voiceover talent.
- Artists Abroad a Foreign Service Facebook group. The group shares resources, tips, information, and venues used by other art professionals around the world.
- Imagebrief.com an online marketplace for image buyers and professional photographers.

Virtual Assistants

• Taskbullet.com, virtualassistants.com, and teamdoubleclick.com - hire virtual assistants for travel planning, research, data entry, customer service, editing, computer programming, and medical transcription, with long and short-term projects available.

Job Boards that Require Subscriptions

Some telecommuting websites require job seekers to sign up as a member, and in some cases, pay for access to job listings. If you are committed to seeking a telecommuting opportunity but want to minimize your research time, joining one of these sites may be for you. Look for a job board that screens job openings before publishing them. Fee-based subscription sites include:

- flexjobs.com
- virtualvocations.com
- flexibleresources.com
- teleworkrecruiting.com
- hiremymom.com
- Flexprofessionalsllc.com
- servingtalent.com
- teleworkrecruiting.com
- flexexecutives.com

Other Resources

Lists of companies with virtual workers:

- Flex Jobs
- Scott Berkun

Be wary of scams that target people looking for opportunities to work from home. Keep in mind that no legitimate employer will ask applicants to pay money to apply for employment. Email FLOAskEmployment@state.gov for a tip sheet on spotting scams.

IMPORTANT: The Family Liaison Office provides this information as a public service. Links DO NOT imply any endorsement of accuracy or quality of services.